

and equitable and I feel that if they want a pay raise, well, they should be up front about it. So I think that this amendment is the right way to go and I would urge you to oppose the Chambers motion.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, then Senator Ashford.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, what Senators Marsh and Hefner seem to be forgetting is that the bill, which is now law that enables the Congressional salaries to be raised in the fashion that they are, was passed by Congress. Congress did do this up front, Senator Hefner. They passed a law and, pursuant to that law, President Reagan, a Republican, allowed the raises to go through. He did nothing to stop it, did not say that this is dishonest, did not say, this is treacherous, did not say, the Constitution needs to be amended. If the Legislature of Nebraska goes on record in favor of a constitutional amendment, it should not be done simply to benefit some move being made by the representatives from Nebraska. We should not amend the Constitution of the United States because five representatives...well, she had letters from two or three, some representatives from Nebraska say the Constitution should be amended. Now, what these Nebraska representatives want, really, is the best of both worlds. They want to go on record opposing the raise, let others take the heat to get the raise and they get credit for opposing the raise and then get the raise too. That is what I consider to be hypocritical. That is what (recorder malfunction) retires and gets Social Security should get about \$212 and they shouldn't be offended of what I am saying. But on the other hand, there are people who recognize the awesome duties and responsibilities reposed on those who make the laws for this country. And even if you have some people who don't live up to those responsibilities and don't discharge them properly, that is not a reason to demean and degrade the office itself. To try to "get even" with Congresspersons and Senators who are in office in 1987, by messing up the Constitution, is foolish. It is not wise and I don't believe that the majority of the members of this Legislature, if given the opportunity, would vote in favor of shackling us with a provision of the Constitution that says, we cannot get a raise unless the public votes for it. We are suffering under that disability right now and although we are not trying to impose one that rigid on the members of Congress and the Senate, a similar one, because of our own difficulties here, is being sought. Fortunately, even if the Legislature of Nebraska has such a low regard for the Constitution that it